

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

Claims 1-38 (canceled)

Claims 39-52 (canceled)

Claim 53 (previously presented) A method of identifying a compound that modulates the binding of a tristetraprolin (TTP) or a TTP-like polypeptide to an AU-rich element (ARE), comprising:

- a) contacting a sample containing the TTP or the TTP-like polypeptide and an ARE with the compound, and
- b) detecting or measuring the binding between the ARE and the TTP or the TTP-like polypeptide, whereby an increase or decrease in the binding between the ARE and the polypeptide, relative to the binding between the ARE and the polypeptide in the absence of the compound, identifies a compound that modulates the binding of TTP or a TTP-like polypeptide to an ARE.

Claim 54 (previously presented) The method of claim 53, whereby an increase in the binding between the ARE and the polypeptide identifies a compound that stimulates an activity of a TTP or a TTP-like polypeptide.

Claim 55 (previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the method identifies a compound that stimulates degradation of an mRNA molecule comprising an ARE.

Claim 56 (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the mRNA molecule encodes tumor necrosis factor-  $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ ).